



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Paul Raia (co-chair), Grace Carpenter (co-chair), Paul Parravano (co-chair), Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Karen Mathiasen, Kerrie Fallon, Cynthia DeAngelis, Ileana Gatica Herrera

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI Director), Christina Coleman (DEI Admin Assistant), Janice Cagan-Teuber (Volunteer), Ellen Leigh (Volunteer/Advocate),

Absent: Liza Molina

Meeting called to order by Parravano at 4:03 PM

Minutes

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (Paul P, Grace, Paul R, 10 min)
 - a. Introduce new commissioner- welcome Ileana Gatica Herrera
 - b. Commissioners, staff, and volunteers introduced themselves to Ileana and shared why they joined the commission
2. Approve December Draft Meeting Minutes (Paul P, 5 min)

- a. Raia moved to approve December minutes, Mathiasen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Approve commission meeting dates for 2022
 - a. Raia motioned to approve 2022 calendar, Mathiasen seconded, motion passed.
- 4. Annual Report Review (Paul P, 5 min)
 - a. Commission thanked Carpenter for her work on writing the annual report.
 - b. DeAngelis recommended writing down the commission's accomplishments throughout the year to highlight in the annual report; co-chairs will discuss the suggestion during next co-chair meeting.
- 5. Adobe licenses request (Paul R, 10 min)
 - a. Raia notes that the Adobe license request is a worthy expenditure to make the Town website more accessible
 - b. Raia motioned to support the Adobe license request, DeAngelis seconded; commission approved the request to pay for the Adobe Licenses, up to \$18,000.
 - c. Parravano reiterated that supporting this request will help the Town move towards being a more accessible community
 - d. Carpenter inquired about how finances and budgets in the Town work. Harvey will invite a member of the Finance Committee to an upcoming meeting to provide an overview of Town budgeting
- 6. Open Space Letter (Grace, 10 min)
 - a. Carpenter finalizing Open Space Letter, will send to Co-Chairs and Harvey.
- 7. Library Accessibility Website Page (Grace, 5 min)
 - a. Commissioners can provide feedback to Jill/Christina and Jill will share feedback to Library
- 8. Subcommittee reports (35 min)
 - a. DEI (Jill)
 - i. MLK Celebration went well, Committee is looking for new members to join the MLK Committee
 - ii. Select Board endorsed request to use some of the RPA funding for a community equity audit – RFP will be posted on Monday
 - iii. Community Outreach and Coordinator position has been approved
 - iv. Working towards adding an ADA Coordinator position
 - b. Remote Participation (Janice)
 - i. Working on report that committee is submitting to the February Select Board meeting
 - c. Recreation/ Open Space (Sarah Forster)
 - i. Tabled
 - d. DPW (Mike)
 - i. MWRA is doing some repairs in Broadway Plaza
 - ii. Broadway Plaza sidewalks will be replaced with concrete surface in the Spring
 - e. Elections (Paul P)
 - i. Town is researching accessibility at voting sites
 - ii. Town Clerk has received approval from Town Manager that will allow people with visual impairments to request a special ballot that they will be able to read and access with a screen reader, run by a company called Democracy Live
 - f. High School Building Committee
 - i. Construction is taking place, B Building is being removed
 - ii. Construction is on budget and on time

- iii. Community building in Arlington is very behind schedule; Counsel on Aging Office is not accessible to the public. Rademacher gave an explanation regarding the delays and assured the commission that the work will get done regardless of the delays
- 9. Covenant Church letter of support (Grace and Guest, 20 min)
 - a. Don Mills, member of Covenant Church presented on request for letter of support for CPAC application
 - i. Presentation discussed improvements that will improve accessibility and preserve integrity of historic church facility
 - b. Covenant Church has met with Arlington Historical District as well and the Historic District Unanimously supported the church's construction
 - c. Rademacher motioned to approve renovations in support of the Covenant Church, Raia seconded, all in favor, motion approved.
- 10. February Monthly Meeting (Grace, 5 min)
 - a. Priorities for FY23
 - b. Plan for remainder of FY22
- 11. Closing

Raia motioned to adjourn meeting, Fallon seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday February 16th, 2022 at 4:00PM

Commission members not able to attend please email dei@town.arlington.ma.us prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact dei@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.